

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 to 6 (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a first sub-code to be transmitted by selecting a predetermined number of symbols from information symbols and first and second parity symbols ~~within a predetermined puncturing range~~ in a communication system having a turbo encoder for generating information symbols, first parity symbols, and second parity symbols for the input of an information bit stream, the predetermined number of symbols being N_s symbols, comprising the steps of:

selecting all the information symbols ~~within the puncturing range~~, if a difference between N_s and ~~a number of the information symbols~~ a number of columns of a puncturing matrix is equal to or greater than a number of component encoders in the turbo encoder; and

selecting as many first and second parity symbols as the difference, a number of the selected first parity symbols being equal to or greater than a number of the selected second parity symbols.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of increasing the puncturing range by an integer multiple if the difference is less than the number of the component encoders.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of selecting the N_s symbols from unselected first and second parity symbols in the first sub-code in generating a second sub-code, wherein the number of the selected first parity symbols is equal to or greater than the number of the selected second parity symbols.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of selecting remaining unselected first and second parity symbols in the other sub-codes except for a last sub-code and repeating $(N_s - N_{s2})$ information symbols, N_{s2} being a number of the other unselected parity symbols in generating the last sub-code.

11. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the communication system uses the sub-codes in a hybrid ARQ (Automatic Repeat Request) scheme.

12. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the number N_s of selected symbols is determined by C/R_{\max} , C being a number of columns in a puncturing matrix and R_{\max} being a code rate of the sub-code.

Claims 13-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for generating a sub-code in a communication system, comprising:

a turbo encoder for encoding an input information bit stream with a given code rate and generating information symbols, first parity symbols, and second parity symbols; and

a sub-code generator for generating a first sub-code to be transmitted by selecting all information symbols ~~within a predetermined puncturing range~~ and selecting as many first and second parity symbols as a difference between a predetermined number N_s of symbols to be selected and ~~a number of the information symbols within the predetermined puncturing range~~ a number of columns of a puncturing matrix, a number of the selected first parity symbols being equal to or greater than a number of the selected second parity symbols, if the difference is equal to or greater than a number of component encoders in the turbo encoder.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the sub-code generator generates a second sub-code by selecting N_s symbols from the first and second parity symbols without selecting information symbols, the number of the selected first parity symbols being equal to or greater than the number of the selected second parity symbols.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the sub-code generator generates a last sub-code by selecting remaining unselected first and second parity symbols in the other sub-

codes except for the last sub-code and repeating ($N_s - N_{s2}$) information symbols, N_{s2} being a number of the other unselected parity symbols in the other sub-codes.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the sub-code generator generates the sub-codes by increasing the puncturing range by an integer multiple if the difference is less than the number of the component encoders.